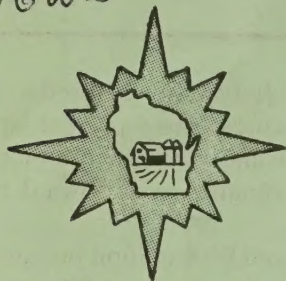


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WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

Vol. XIII, No. 5

March 1981

Cream of the News

Milk production on Wisconsin farms in February was equal to a year ago but up nearly 4 percent on a daily average basis due to one less day in February 1981.

Wholesale prices of dairy products showed little change from January to February.

Cheese and butter production in Wisconsin and the Nation during February continued well above a year earlier.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in February were expected to average 14 cents below the previous month but \$1.27 more than last year.

Cold storage stocks of butter in the Nation at the end of February were up 81 percent from a year ago and the highest since July 1963.

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers as of mid-February was 4 points above a month earlier as higher livestock prices offset declines for milk and some crops.

Steer prices at Wisconsin auction markets in February were down slightly from the previous month.

Livestock slaughter in Wisconsin during 1980 was above 1979.

The inventory of hogs and pigs in the 14 major states on March 1 was 9 percent under a year earlier, while Wisconsin's hog count was down 15 percent.

Cold storage stocks of red meat in the Nation at the end of February were up 10 percent from a year ago due to more pork in storage.

Prices of barrows and gilts at Wisconsin packing plants and country buying stations in February were above both the previous month and last year.

A survey of planting intentions as of March 1 showed Wisconsin farmers expected to increase corn and soybean acreage this year, but the Nation's acreage would remain about the same.

FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION EQUAL TO YEAR AGO

Milk production on Wisconsin farms in February totaled 1,731 million pounds, equal to a year earlier even though there was one less day in February 1981. On a daily average basis, the State's milk production during February was up 3.6 percent from last year. Output per cow for February averaged 950 pounds compared with 955 pounds in February 1980. There were 1,822,000 milk cows on Wisconsin farms during February, the highest number in eight years and 9,000 head more than in February 1980.

The Nation's milk production totaled 10.1 billion pounds in February, up 1 percent from a year ago. On a daily average basis, the Nation's milk production for February was 5 percent above February 1980. Production per cow averaged 928 pounds in February 1981, a gain of 2 pounds from the previous year. The 10.9 million milk cows on farms during February were 1 percent more than a year earlier. Wisconsin produced 17.2 percent of the National milk output in February.

Milk Production

Selected States	February 1980	February 1981	Jan.-Feb. 1981	Change from last year	
				Feb.	Jan.-Feb.
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin . . .	1,731	1,731	3,587	n. c.	+ 2
Minnesota . . .	765	814	1,650	+ 6	+ 7
New York . . .	860	862	1,786	n. c.	+ 2
Pennsylvania . .	684	693	1,420	+ 1	+ 4
California . . .	999	1,028	2,138	+ 3	+ 4
Other states . .	4,931	4,965	10,251	+ 1	+ 2
United States . .	9,970	10,093	20,832	+ 1	+ 3

FEBRUARY MILK PRICE BELOW PREVIOUS MONTH

Dairy farmers in Wisconsin were expected to receive an average of \$13.60 a hundredweight for all milk sold in February, a decline of 4 cents from January. However, the February milk price would be \$1.27 above a year ago.

January milk prices were down 3 cents from a month earlier but \$1.31 higher than the previous year. Milkfat content for January averaged 3.79 percent compared with 3.81 percent in January 1980.

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Grade A milk prices averaged \$13.80 a hundredweight in January, a decline of 2 cents from December but \$1.30 above last year. Manufacturing grade milk, at an average of \$13.26 a hundredweight in January, was 5 cents under the previous month but \$1.29 more than a year ago. The 3.5 percent base price for manufacturing grade milk in January was \$12.77 a hundredweight, 3 cents below the government support price.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	December 1980		January price per cwt.			Feb. 1981 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1980	1981	81/80 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.84	13.67	12.33	13.64	+ 11	13.60
Minnesota	3.73	13.31	11.98	13.34	+ 11	13.30
New York	3.73	14.00	12.50	14.00	+ 12	14.10
California	3.75	14.00	12.60	13.90	+ 10	13.80
United States . . .	3.80	14.10	12.80	14.10	+ 10	14.10
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.83	13.82	12.50	13.80	+ 10	XXX
Manufacturing milk	3.86	13.31	11.97	13.26	+ 11	XXX
Creameries	3.83	13.28	11.84	13.24	+ 12	XXX
Cheese factories . .	3.86	13.32	11.98	13.27	+ 11	XXX
Varied prod. plants	3.87	13.24	11.88	13.20	+ 11	XXX

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	January 1980	December 1980	January 1981 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Market milk	12.05	13.26	13.33	+ 11
Manufacturing milk	11.50	12.74	12.77	+ 11
Creameries	11.37	12.76	12.78	+ 12
American cheese plants	11.50	12.72	12.75	+ 11
Varied products plants	11.42	12.66	12.66	+ 11
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone . .	11.88	13.09	13.13	+ 11

1/Computed using milkfat differential. 2/Preliminary.

CHEESE AND BUTTER ABOVE A YEAR AGO

Cheese and butter production in Wisconsin and the Nation during January was higher than the previous year. Total cheese output for the Nation in January was up 11 percent from January 1980. The Nation's production of American

cheese increased 17 percent and Italian cheese production gained 5 percent. Output of Swiss cheese was 4 percent larger than in January last year, but Brick and Muenster production declined 8 percent and all other varieties were down 3 percent.

Dairy plants in Wisconsin produced 90.4 million pounds of American cheese during January, an increase of 20 percent from a year earlier. Production of American cheese in Minnesota was up 16 percent, Iowa had a gain of 18 percent, and other states increased 13 percent.

Butter production in the Nation during January was 17 percent higher than a year ago. Wisconsin produced 16 percent more butter than in January 1980, Minnesota was up 17 percent, California gained 3 percent, and other states increased 22 percent.

Production of creamed and curd cottage cheese in the Nation for January was below a year earlier, but lowfat cottage cheese production continued higher. The National ice cream output in January was down 6 percent from last year.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	January 1980	January 1981	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds		Percent
BUTTER			
Wisconsin	25,500	29,700	+ 16
Minnesota	12,530	14,615	+ 17
California	17,500	18,000	+ 3
Other states	48,241	59,012	+ 22
United States	103,771	121,327	+ 17
CHEESE, AMERICAN			
Wisconsin	75,200	90,400	+ 20
Minnesota	38,290	44,260	+ 16
Iowa	7,546	8,910	+ 18
Other states	60,973	68,610	+ 13
United States	182,009	212,180	+ 17
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS			
United States			
Swiss	17,695	18,368	+ 4
Brick and Muenster	7,430	6,860	- 8
Italian	81,335	85,136	+ 5
All other	22,017	21,380	- 3
Total	128,477	131,744	+ 3
ALL CHEESE			
United States	310,486	343,924	+ 11
OTHER PRODUCTS			
Cottage cheese			
United States			
Curd 1/.	54,162	52,014	- 4
Creamed 2/.	67,063	63,438	- 5
Lowfat 3/.	13,174	14,571	+ 11
Ice cream			
1,000 gallons			Percent
Wisconsin	1,250	1,450	+ 16
Illinois	2,850	2,600	- 9
Iowa	1,015	830	- 18
Michigan	2,500	2,300	- 8
Minnesota	2,575	2,140	- 17
Other states	47,234	44,744	- 5
United States	57,424	54,064	- 6

1/Mostly used for processing into creamed or lowfat cottage cheese. 2/Fat content 4 percent or more. 3/Fat content less than 4 percent.

WHOLESALE DAIRY PRICES SHOW LITTLE CHANGE

Wholesale prices of dairy products showed little change from January to February. Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 139.25 cents a pound at Wisconsin assembling points in February, slightly less than the previous month but 13.25 cents above a year ago.

Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 191.74 cents a pound during February. This was about one-fourth

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Statisticians

Carrol D. Spencer, *In Charge*

Jim Davies, *Assistant in Charge*

Ed Lippert

Laverne E. Krahn

John S. Rowe

Ronald F. Kriesel

Editor

Marvin Heiser

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cent below January but nearly 29 cents higher than last year.

The 92-score butter price of 153.66 cents a pound in February was up about one-fourth cent from a month earlier and 18 cents above February 1980.

National evaporated milk averaged \$21.41 a case for February, a gain of 26 cents from January and \$2.24 more than a year ago. Nonfat dry milk prices for the Chicago area averaged 93.50 cents a pound during February, down about one-quarter cent from the previous month but nearly 10 cents above last year.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	February 1980	January 1981	February 1981
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . .	135.71¢	153.38¢	153.66¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. block, pound 1/. . .	126.00¢	139.32¢	139.25¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block, pound 1/.	163.00¢	192.00¢	191.74¢
National evaporated milk, case, 48 13-fluid-ounce cans	\$19.17	\$21.15	\$21.41
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	83.78¢	93.73¢	93.50¢

1/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

BUTTER STOCKS LARGEST SINCE 1963

Cold storage stocks of butter in the Nation at the end of February totaled 371.3 million pounds, up 81 percent from a year earlier and the highest since July 1963. Government stocks of butter amounted to 319.5 million pounds, 86 percent more than on February 29, 1980. Wisconsin had 43.8 million pounds of butter in cold storage at the end of February, an increase of 50 percent from a year ago.

Cheese stocks in the Nation on February 28th totaled 611.3 million pounds, up 20 percent from the previous year and a record high for that date. American cheese stocks at 523.7 million pounds were 31 percent above last year. The Government had 65.3 million pounds of American cheese in storage compared with only 7 million pounds a year ago. American cheese stocks in Wisconsin totaled nearly 216 million pounds, 1 percent more than on February 29, 1980.

Swiss cheese stocks in the Nation at the end of February were 1 percent under the previous year, while stocks of all other cheese were down 22 percent.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Feb. 28 1979	Feb. 29 1980	Feb. 28 1981	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter	214,840	205,625	371,310	+ 81
Cheese, American	367,287	399,546	523,711	+ 31
Cheese, Swiss	13,618	12,477	12,315	- 1
Cheese, all other	72,752	96,897	75,245	-22
Cheese, total	453,657	508,920	611,271	+ 20
	WISCONSIN			
Butter	24,819	29,198	43,790	+ 50
Cheese, American	187,788	213,083	215,927	+ 1
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter	186,359	172,033	319,509	+ 86
Cheese, American	3,252	7,053	65,277	XXX

*Included in above totals.

CHEESE AND BUTTER PRODUCTION TO CONTINUE ABOVE YEAR AGO

Weekly estimates of American cheese and butter production for February indicated that output would continue higher than the previous year. The Nation's butter production in February was up about 13 percent from a year earlier. Wisconsin also produced more butter during February than a year ago.

American cheese production in the Nation for February was about 15 percent higher than in February 1980. Dairy plants in Wisconsin also produced about 15 percent more American cheese during February than a year earlier.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1981	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1981	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
January . .	121,327	+ 17	+ 16	212,180	+ 17	+ 20
Feb. 5 . .	26,700	+ 14	+ 12	48,800	+ 14	+ 13
Feb. 12 . .	26,500	+ 14	- 4	48,900	+ 17	+ 17
Feb. 19 . .	27,600	+ 16	+ 10	49,000	+ 14	+ 16
Feb. 26 . .	27,400	+ 14	+ 8	49,500	+ 16	+ 13
Total . . .	108,200	+ 13	XXX	196,200	+ 15	XXX

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products, United States

Commodity	January 31, 1979	January 31, 1980	January 31, 1981	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	4,869	4,667	6,349	+ 36
Dried skim milk	37,894	87,146	82,458	- 5
Dried buttermilk	4,222	7,510	8,956	+ 19
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/. .	65,963	75,283	41,711	-45

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX HIGHER IN MID-FEBRUARY

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers increased 4 points from January to February as higher prices for live-stock offset declines for milk and some crops. At 293 percent of the 1967 base, the index of prices received was 28 points (11 percent) above February 15, 1980. The index of prices paid increased 2 points from January to February, and it was 13 percent higher than a year ago.

Milk cows averaged \$1,220.00 per head in February, a gain of \$10.00 from the previous month and \$100.00 more than last year. Calves brought \$91.00 a hundredweight as of February 15, an increase of \$2.50 from a month earlier but \$29.00 under a year ago.

Steers and heifers averaged \$57.90 a hundredweight in February, down 20 cents from January and \$10.30 below the previous year. Slaughter cows, at an average of \$46.90 a hundredweight for February, were up \$3.70 from January but \$4.70 lower than last year.

Hogs averaged \$41.80 a hundredweight as of mid-February, an increase of \$1.30 from the previous month and \$5.00 higher than a year earlier.

Sheep returned an average of \$20.50 a hundredweight in February, a gain of \$2.00 from January and \$3.00 more than a year ago. Lambs averaged \$54.00 a hundredweight as of mid-February, an increase of \$3.50 from a month earlier but \$6.50 below last year.

Egg prices averaged about 48½ cents a dozen on February 15, a decline of 6 cents from the previous month but nearly 5½ cents above a year ago. At 42 cents a pound liveweight for February, turkeys were up 2 cents from January.

Except for hay and oats, crop prices declined from January to February. Corn averaged \$3.00 a bushel in mid-February, down 5 cents from a month earlier but 77 cents higher than a year ago. Wheat brought an average of \$4.07 a bushel in February, a decline of 17 cents from January but 47 cents more than last year.

Oats averaged a record high of \$1.70 a bushel as of February 15, a gain of 8 cents from the previous month and 36 cents above a year earlier. Soybeans returned an average of \$6.90 a bushel in February, down 15 cents from January but \$1.35 higher than a year ago. The price of baled alfalfa hay averaged \$45.50 a ton in February, up \$1.50 from a month earlier and \$13.00 more than the previous year.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Month of Feb. 1979	Month of Feb. 1980	Jan. 15 1981	Feb. 15 1981
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	905.00	1,120.00	1,210.00	1,220.00
Steers and heifers . .	Cwt.	66.00	68.20	58.10 1/	57.90
Cow slaughter . . .	Cwt.	51.70	51.60	43.20 1/	46.90
Calves	Cwt.	105.00	120.00	88.50 1/	91.00
Hogs	Cwt.	52.50	36.80	40.50 1/	41.80
Sheep	Cwt.	18.00	17.50	18.50	20.50
Lambs	Cwt.	67.70	60.50	50.50	54.00
Turkeys	Lb.	.440	2/	.400	.420
Eggs	Doz.	.504	.430	.544	.484
Corn	Bu.	2.03	2.23	3.05 1/	3.00
Wheat	Bu.	3.20	3.60	4.24	4.07
Oats	Bu.	1.19	1.34	1.62 1/	1.70
Soybeans	Bu.	6.81	5.55	7.05	6.90
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	40.50	32.50	44.00	45.50

1/Average for the month. 2/Insufficient sales to establish price.

CUSTOM RATES GUIDE FOR SPRING

During 1980 Wisconsin farmers increased their crop production 24 percent from the base year of 1967. This productivity gain was accomplished by 9 percent fewer farm workers on 19 percent fewer farms and with 5 percent more harvested acres. To perform the increased work load, Wisconsin farmers utilized more mechanization and larger equipment. According to the 1978 United States Census of Agriculture, machinery and equipment on Wisconsin farms were valued at \$3.5 billion, with an average per farm of \$39,232. Hired labor costs totaled \$183 million and expenses for custom work amounted to \$42 million. Energy costs for 1978 were \$211 million.

Inflationary costs for new equipment, energy, and labor have caused many farmers to consider hiring a planting or harvesting operation rather than purchasing machinery to do the job. Custom work has become a viable option to buying farm equipment that receives restricted use during a crop season. With spring field work approaching, the following

tables are published to show custom rates for land tillage, planting, and fertilizing operations.

Custom work rates shown in the tables include the cost of hiring the machine with fuel, operator, and other maintenance supplies, but the rates do not include the cost of materials used such as seed, fertilizer, and herbicides. No attempt was made to distinguish between the rates charged by custom operators who do this work for their main source of income, and farmers who occasionally do custom work as a sideline or on an exchange basis. Rates charged by custom operators trend to the higher side of the ranges shown in order to meet their total expenses and provide a return on their machinery investment.

Rates shown in the tables should be used as guides rather than absolute values in making management decisions regarding custom work. The reported rates can be influenced by the availability of equipment, soil conditions, topography, type and size of machine, special services performed, and traditional practices in an area. A more complete report on Spring Custom Rates can be obtained by writing to the Wisconsin Agriculture Reporting Service, Box 9160, Madison, WI 53715.

Land Tillage Operations, Wisconsin, 1980 1/

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate	Range in rates	Average rate
	Dollars per acre		Dollars per hour	
Plowing:				
Number of bottoms				
2	5.00-16.00	8.67	8.00-15.00	10.33
3	4.00-10.00	6.25	6.00-12.00	9.58
4	5.00-11.00	7.95	7.00-20.00	13.67
5	6.00-13.50	8.55	18.50-40.00	29.88
6 and over	5.00-20.00	9.50	30.00-50.00	36.00
Disking:				
Width in feet				
8-10	4.00- 5.00	4.50	5.00-12.00	9.22
11-14	2.00-12.50	4.79	3.50-25.00	15.03
15 and over	2.50-14.00	6.15	14.00-50.00	25.67
Quack digging:				
Width in feet				
7-9	—	—	6.00-15.00	9.00
10-13	2.00-11.00	4.86	10.00-20.00	15.44
14 and over	2.50- 6.00	4.43	8.00-35.00	18.92
Chisel plowing:				
Width in feet				
6-8	5.50- 8.00	6.38	10.00-55.00	19.67
9-10	4.00-12.00	9.50	8.00-14.00	10.38
11 and over	4.00-14.00	8.43	15.00-60.00	30.50
Harrowing:				
Spiketooth				
Width in feet				
10-16	3.00-6.35	4.41	4.00-15.00	10.13
18 and over	1.00-3.00	2.21	3.00-30.00	15.10
Springtooth				
Width in feet				
7-10	2.00-4.00	3.00	6.00-12.00	8.67
11-15	1.50-3.00	2.25	10.00-25.00	13.29
16 and over	2.50-6.00	3.83	8.00-37.50	19.88
Chopping cornstalks:				
Width in feet				
6 and under	2.00-7.50	4.78	4.00-12.00	9.00
7-9	4.00-5.00	4.75	12.00-15.00	14.00
10 and over	4.00-7.50	5.50	3.50-40.00	20.40
Cultivating:				
Without fertilizer				
2 row	2.00-4.00	3.05	6.00-10.00	8.00
4 row	2.00-6.00	3.77	5.00-35.00	14.00
6 row	3.00	3.00	—	—
8 row	—	—	—	—
With fertilizer				
2 row	3.00	3.00	6.50	6.50
4 row	4.00	4.00	12.00-14.00	13.00

1/Rates include charges for the machines, power unit, operator's labor and fuel, but exclude costs of materials such as fertilizer, herbicides, etc.

Planting and Fertilizing Operations, Wisconsin, 1980 1/

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate	Range in rates	Average rate
	Dollars per acre		Dollars per hour	
Grain drilling:				
Without fertilizer				
Width in feet				
7-9	2.00- 6.00	3.59	3.00-10.00	6.80
10 and over . .	2.00-10.00	4.43	5.00-28.00	11.69
With fertilizer				
Width in feet				
7-9	2.00-10.00	4.75	3.50-12.00	7.83
10 and over . .	3.00- 6.00	4.81	6.75-18.00	12.59
Corn planting:				
Without fertilizer				
2 row	3.00- 4.50	3.75	7.00	7.00
4 row	2.00-10.00	5.09	5.00-16.00	10.77
6 row	4.00- 5.00	4.67	—	—
8 row	4.00- 5.00	4.50	—	—
With fertilizer				
2 row	3.00- 4.00	3.33	8.00	8.00
4 row	2.00-12.00	5.81	8.00-20.00	12.88
With fertilizer and insecticide:				
4 row	3.00-8.00	5.71	10.00-31.50	19.20
6 row	—	—	24.00	24.00
8 row	5.25-8.00	6.63	—	—
With fertilizer and herbicide				
4 row	—	—	—	—
With fertilizer, insecticide and herbicide:				
4 row	4.75-7.00	5.92	10.00-16.00	13.00
8 row	9.00	9.00	—	—
Fertilizer application:				
Dry fertilizer	1.50- 4.00	2.12	12.00	12.00
Dry fertilizer 2/	2.50- 4.00	3.08	—	—
Liquid fertilizer	1.25- 4.15	3.17	8.00-12.00	10.00
Anhydrous ammonia . . .	1.00-14.00	3.67	9.00-32.00	18.29

1/Rates include charges for the machines, power unit, operator's labor and fuel, but exclude costs of materials such as seed, fertilizer, herbicides, etc. 2/Per ton.

CORN ACREAGE EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN 1981

Based on a survey of planting intentions as of March 1, farmers in Wisconsin intend to plant 4.3 million acres of corn in 1981. This would be 100,000 acres more than planted in 1980 and a record high. In the last ten years, the State's corn acreage has increased by 1 million acres.

Soybean growers in Wisconsin indicated that they would plant 340,000 acres of soybeans this year, an increase of 5,000 acres from last year. Soybean acreage has been increasing each year since 1976 when 160,000 acres were planted.

According to the March 1 survey, a total of 1.1 million acres of oats will be planted in Wisconsin during 1981. This would be 20,000 acres less than planted in 1980. Oat acreage in the State has declined most years since 1953 when 3 million acres were planted.

Farmers in Wisconsin expect to seed 30,000 acres of spring wheat, a gain of 5,000 acres from last year. Barley acreage intentions total 29,000 acres for 1981, up 2,000 acres from the previous year.

Hay may be harvested from 3,850,000 acres this year, a decline of 50,000 acres from last year. Tobacco growers intend to harvest 13,300 acres in 1981, an increase of 500 acres from 1980 when excessive rainfall reduced the harvested acreage of tobacco in Wisconsin.

Nationally, corn acreage for this year is expected to total 84 million acres. This would be almost the same as in 1980. Soybean acreage is intended at 69.8 million acres, slightly less than the 70.1 million acres planted last year.

Oat acreage in the Nation is expected to be up 1 percent this year, while barley acreage may increase 10 percent from 1980 plantings. The National spring wheat acreage could be down 3 percent from last year, but durum wheat is expected to increase 11 percent.

Both cotton and sorghum acreage in the Nation may decline 1 percent in 1981. Acreage of tobacco, peanuts, and hay is forecasted to be higher than last year, while sunflower acreage is expected to be lower.

STATE'S LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER INCREASED LAST YEAR

The number of livestock slaughtered in Wisconsin during 1980 was up from the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled over 1.1 million head, an increase of 12 percent from 1979. Federally inspected cow slaughter in 1980 was 9 percent higher than a year earlier. The number of steers killed in federally inspected plants was up 26 percent from 1979, but the slaughter of heifers was down 13 percent.

The 389,300 calves slaughtered in Wisconsin during 1980 were 12 percent more than the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 2.3 million head, an increase of 5 percent from 1979. Federally inspected sow slaughter in Wisconsin for 1980 was 15 percent below a year earlier. The State's sheep and lamb kill in 1980 was up 22 percent from 1979.

The Nation's cattle slaughter in 1980 was about the same as the previous year. Federally inspected cow slaughter increased 7 percent, but the number of steers and heifers butchered declined 1 percent. Hog slaughter in the Nation for 1980 was 8 percent greater than in 1979. The calf kill in 1980 dropped 8 percent from a year earlier, but sheep and lamb slaughter increased 11 percent.

Planted Acreage, Selected Crops, 1981 Intentions Compared with 1979 and 1980 Planted Acreage, Wisconsin and United States

Crop	Wisconsin				United States			
	1979	1980	1981	Change from last year	1979	1980	1981	Change from last year
	1,000 acres			Percent	1,000 acres			Percent
Corn, all	4,050	4,200	4,300	+ 2	81,393	84,106	83,977	n. c.
Spring wheat	17	25	30	+ 20	15,595	17,480	17,007	- 3
Oats 1/	1,100	1,120	1,100	- 2	13,957	13,360	13,513	+ 1
Barley 1/	25	27	29	+ 7	8,110	8,283	9,085	+ 10
Tobacco, type 54 2/	6.3	6.2	6.3	+ 2	—	—	—	—
Tobacco, type 55 2/	6.6	6.6	7.0	+ 6	—	—	—	—
Tobacco, all 2/	12.9	12.8	13.3	+ 4	827.2	915.5	939.0	+ 3
Soybeans	300	335	340	+ 1	71,632	70,087	69,817	n. c.
Hay, all 2/	4,030	3,900	3,850	- 1	61,666	59,437	61,051	+ 3

1/U. S. total includes acreage planted preceding fall. 2/Acres harvested or intended for harvest.

Commercial Slaughter, 1979 and 1980

Species and area	Number slaughtered 1/			Total liveweight			Average liveweight		
	1979	1980	Change from last year	1979	1980	Change from last year	1979	1980	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds		Percent	Pounds		Percent
WISCONSIN									
Cattle, all	1,023.8	1,147.7	+ 12	1,197.3	1,360.4	+ 14	1,169	1,185	+ 1
Cows 3/	491.2	535.4	+ 9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Steers 3/	299.8	378.7	+ 26	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heifers 3/	72.2	62.9	-13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calves	346.9	389.3	+ 12	72.4	87.4	+ 21	209	225	+ 8
Hogs, all	2,177.8	2,295.4	+ 5	519.0	541.2	+ 4	238	236	- 1
Barrows and gilts 3/	2,038.9	2,144.5	+ 5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sows 3/	33.9	28.7	-15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep and lambs	5.5	6.7	+ 22	.6	.7	+ 20	101	99	- 2
UNITED STATES									
Cattle, all	33,677.6	33,806.7	n. c.	35,709.3	36,229.1	+ 1	1,060	1,072	+ 1
Cows 3/	5,546.0	5,925.0	+ 7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Steers 3/	16,258.0	16,059.0	- 1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heifers 3/	9,112.0	8,980.0	- 1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calves	2,823.9	2,588.1	- 8	688.8	633.5	- 8	244	245	n. c.
Hogs, all	89,099.1	96,074.1	+ 8	21,554.0	23,216.0	+ 8	242	242	n. c.
Barrows and gilts 3/	79,744.0	85,653.0	+ 7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sows 3/	4,793.0	5,161.0	+ 8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep and lambs	5,017.1	5,579.3	+ 11	570.6	623.8	+ 9	114	112	- 2

1/Excludes farm slaughter. 2/Percent change based on unrounded values. 3/Federally inspected only.

HOG INVENTORY LOWER

The March 1 inventory of hogs and pigs in the 14 states conducting quarterly surveys totaled 50.1 million head, a decline of 9 percent from a year ago. This was the fourth

consecutive quarter that hog numbers were below the previous year. Breeding stock was down 11 percent from March 1 last year, while market hogs declined 8 percent.

Hog producers in Wisconsin had 1.5 million head on farms March 1, down 15 percent from a year earlier. The State's

All Hogs and Pigs on Farms, Breeding and Market, March 1, 1980 and 1981, 14 States

State	For breeding			Market			Total hogs and pigs		
	1980	1981	Change from last year	1980	1981	Change from last year	1980	1981	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	327	315	- 4	1,823	1,585	-13	2,150	1,900	-12
Illinois	957	894	- 7	5,643	5,206	- 8	6,600	6,100	- 8
Indiana	628	575	- 8	3,672	3,625	- 1	4,300	4,200	- 2
Iowa	2,268	2,160	- 5	13,932	13,540	- 3	16,200	15,700	- 3
Kansas	272	235	-14	1,743	1,465	-16	2,015	1,700	-16
Kentucky	216	150	-31	1,114	850	-24	1,330	1,000	-25
Minnesota	742	665	-10	4,208	3,785	-10	4,950	4,450	-10
Missouri	731	572	-22	3,569	3,028	-15	4,300	3,600	-16
Nebraska	558	518	- 7	3,292	2,982	- 9	3,850	3,500	- 9
North Carolina	370	305	-18	2,100	1,895	-10	2,470	2,200	-11
Ohio	295	261	-12	1,805	1,664	- 8	2,100	1,925	- 8
South Dakota	272	222	-18	1,618	1,328	-18	1,890	1,550	-18
Texas	139	125	-10	761	675	-11	900	800	-11
Wisconsin	310	222	-28	1,440	1,258	-13	1,750	1,480	-15
Total 14 States	8,085	7,219	-11	46,720	42,886	- 8	54,805	50,105	- 9

Sows Farrowing, Pigs per Litter, and Pig Crop, December 1/ through February, 1980 and 1981, 14 States

State	Sows farrowing			Pigs per litter		Pig Crop 2/		
	1980	1981	Change from last year	1980	1981	1980	1981	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	Head		1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	115	100	-13	7.10	7.25	816	725	-11
Illinois	320	295	- 8	7.00	6.80	2,240	2,006	-10
Indiana	220	210	- 5	7.05	7.30	1,551	1,533	- 1
Iowa	700	660	- 6	7.10	7.30	4,970	4,818	- 3
Kansas	103	82	-20	7.20	7.42	742	608	-18
Kentucky	73	49	-33	6.70	6.90	489	338	-31
Minnesota	295	250	-15	7.50	7.40	2,212	1,850	-16
Missouri	220	200	- 9	7.30	7.15	1,606	1,430	-11
Nebraska	200	180	-10	7.30	7.35	1,460	1,323	- 9
North Carolina	150	120	-20	7.10	7.20	1,065	864	-19
Ohio	105	95	-10	7.20	7.30	756	694	- 8
South Dakota	86	68	-21	7.50	7.20	645	490	-24
Texas	48	40	-17	6.80	7.00	326	280	-14
Wisconsin	105	85	-19	7.35	7.50	772	638	-17
Total 14 States	2,740	2,434	-11	7.17	7.23	19,650	17,597	-10

1/December preceding year. 2/Number of pigs born December through February that were on hand March 1 or had been sold.

breeding stock was 28 percent under the previous year, and market hogs declined 13 percent.

Farrowings in the 14 states during December 1980 through February 1981 were down 11 percent from a year earlier. Farrowings in Wisconsin for that quarter were 19 percent below the previous year.

Expected farrowings in the 14 states for March through May could be 10 percent less than a year ago, while farrowing intentions for June through August are indicated to decline 8 percent. Farrowings in Wisconsin during March through August are expected to be about 20 percent below that period in 1980.

Sows Farrowed and Sows to Farrow
March through August, 1980 and 1981, 14 States

State	March through May			June through August		
	1980	1981 1/	Change from last year	1980	1981 1/	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	120	105	-12	104	110	+ 6
Illinois	460	415	-10	365	350	- 4
Indiana	225	200	-11	235	235	n. c.
Iowa	960	930	- 3	735	705	- 4
Kansas	118	106	-10	93	76	-18
Kentucky	82	55	-33	78	57	-27
Minnesota	320	280	-12	300	270	-10
Missouri	285	230	-19	240	200	-17
Nebraska	250	240	- 4	190	185	- 3
North Carolina	145	120	-17	132	115	-13
Ohio	105	100	- 5	112	95	-15
South Dakota	130	110	-15	96	75	-22
Texas	43	42	- 2	53	46	-13
Wisconsin	113	90	-20	105	85	-19
Total 14 States . .	3,356	3,023	-10	2,838	2,604	- 8

1/Number indicated by breeding intentions report.

FEBRUARY HOG SLAUGHTER BELOW YEAR AGO

Hog slaughter in Wisconsin during February was down 8 percent from the previous year, while the National hog kill showed a decline of 6 percent.

The State's cattle slaughter in February was 10 percent under a year ago, but the Nation's cattle slaughter was equal to February 1980.

Calf slaughter in Wisconsin during February increased 3 percent from a year earlier, and the National calf kill was up 2 percent. The number of sheep and lambs butchered in Wisconsin was the same as in February 1980, but the Nation had an increase of 2 percent.

PORK STOCKS ABOVE LAST YEAR

Pork supplies in the Nation's cold storage facilities at the end of February totaled 356.3 million pounds, an increase of 32 percent from a year ago. Beef stocks, at 348.8 million pounds, were down 2 percent from February 29, 1980. Stocks of veal were 17 percent under last year, while lamb and mutton stocks declined 19 percent. With higher pork stocks offsetting declines for other meats, the total supply of red meat in cold storage at the end of February was up 10 percent from a year ago.

Stocks of chicken in cold storage on February 28th were 3 percent more than the previous year, but turkey stocks were down 7 percent.

Cold Storage Stocks of Red Meat and Poultry
United States, February, 1981, and Comparisons

Commodity	Feb. 28 1979	Feb. 29 1980	Jan. 31 1981	Feb. 28 1981	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
FROZEN MEAT					
Beef	402,876	357,564	362,136	348,811	- 2
Pork	219,281	270,406	351,451	356,333	+ 32
Veal	8,954	10,026	9,281	8,276	-17
Lamb and mutton	10,827	9,464	8,945	7,693	-19
CANNED MEATS IN COOLER					
Hams	50,416	47,931	45,921	47,717	n. c.
Other meats	15,862	17,183	13,992	16,028	- 7
Total red meat 1/	708,216	712,574	791,715	784,858	+ 10
FROZEN POULTRY					
Chicken, all	100,634	137,562	146,695	142,047	+ 3
Turkeys, all	154,713	224,987	207,912	208,385	- 7
Total poultry 2/	258,198	366,385	359,030	354,712	- 3

1/Excludes cooler beef and cooler pork. 2/Includes frozen ducks.

Commercial Slaughter, February 1980 and 1981, Wisconsin and United States

Species and area	Number slaughtered						Total liveweight		
	February			January - February			February		
	1980	1981	Change from last year	1980	1981	Change from last year	1980	1981	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds		Percent
WISCONSIN									
Cattle, all	87.4	78.7	-10	186.3	169.9	- 9	105.4	96.5	- 7
Cows 3/	45.8	40.3	-12	96.8	88.5	- 9	-	-	-
Steers and heifers 3/	28.7	27.0	- 6	62.0	56.6	- 9	-	-	-
Calves	33.8	34.7	+ 3	71.9	74.2	+ 3	7.4	7.8	+ 5
Hogs, all	184.8	169.8	- 8	391.3	376.5	- 4	43.3	40.4	- 7
Sows 3/	2.1	3.7	+ 76	5.2	7.4	+ 42	-	-	-
Sheep and lambs2	.2	n. c.	.5	.6	+ 20	24 4/	25 4/	+ 4
UNITED STATES									
Cattle, all	2,646	2,657	n. c.	5,575	5,661	+ 2	2,882	2,904	+ 1
Cows 3/	432	444	+ 3	952	1,002	+ 5	-	-	-
Heifers 3/	672	714	+ 6	1,393	1,486	+ 7	-	-	-
Steers 3/	1,333	1,276	- 4	2,777	2,695	- 3	-	-	-
Calves	205	209	+ 2	439	447	+ 2	47	51	+ 8
Hogs, all	7,607	7,188	- 6	16,028	15,319	- 4	1,816	1,737	- 4
Sows 3/	346	337	- 3	788	731	- 7	-	-	-
Sheep and lambs	432	440	+ 2	895	945	+ 6	50	51	+ 2

1/Excludes farm slaughter. 2/Percent change based on unrounded values. 3/Federally inspected only. 4/Expressed in thousands.

STEER PRICES DOWN SLIGHTLY

Prices of feeder and fed steers at Wisconsin auction markets declined a little from January to February. Large frame number two feeder steers weighing 800 to 1,000 pounds averaged \$53.22 a hundredweight for February, a decline of 16 cents from the previous month and \$10.68 below a year earlier. Good and choice fed steers weighing 1,100 to 1,500 pounds averaged \$57.29 a hundredweight in February, down 27 cents

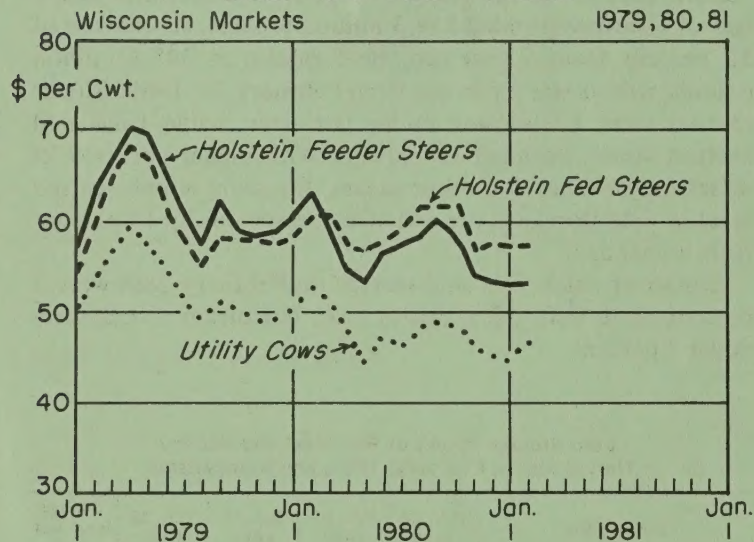
from January and \$3.17 under last year.

Utility cows brought an average of \$46.73 a hundredweight during February, a gain of \$1.95 from a month earlier but \$6.26 lower than a year ago.

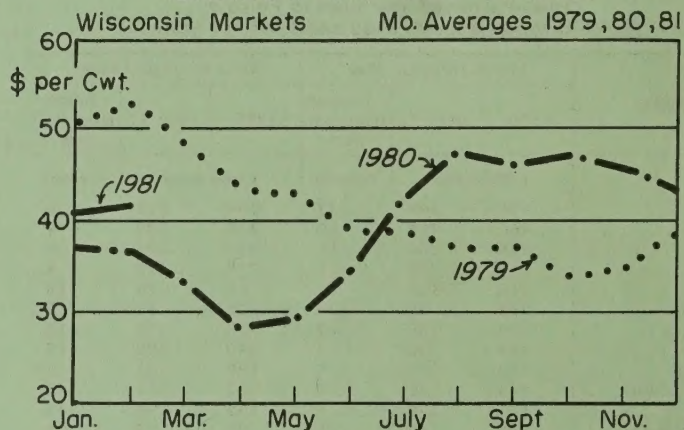
HOG MARKET UP

Prices paid for barrows and gilts at Wisconsin packing plants and country buying stations in February averaged \$41.60 a hundredweight for hogs weighing 200-230 pounds. This was an increase of 75 cents from the January price and \$4.52 above February 1980.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES



BARROW and GILT PRICES



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